

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

ATTENTION: Chief, ICAPS
SUBJECT: National Intelligence Requirements
REFERENCE: NIA Directive No. 8

1. Recent discussions have been held between members of ICAPS and ORE on the subject of National Intelligence Requirements. Due to varying misconceptions in many quarters as to the purpose of publishing National Intelligence Requirements, it has seemed desirable to survey this problem and to question whether or not their publication should be continued, and, if so, in what form. The following constitute the recommendations submitted by this office at the request of the Chief, ICAPS.

2. It is recommended that the projected series of National Intelligence Requirements for specific foreign areas, as inaugurated in the Reference, be discontinued. It is felt that this particular method of handling the problem suffers from too many defects, among which are the following:

a. Such National Intelligence Requirements are too detailed for this level of treatment.

b. Due to the necessity for repeated changes and revisions, such National Intelligence Requirements need greater flexibility of treatment.

c. A series of such regional National Intelligence Requirements is of necessity largely repetitive, in that it restates with variations for each region what are world-wide national intelligence requirements.

d. No provision is made in such a series of regional national intelligence requirements between areas or in the functional coverage of subjects.

3. It is further recommended that, since some command direction and guide on this level for the entire National intelligence production program is required, a single NIA Directive be issued on this subject. This Directive would indicate the basic essentials of what intelligence must be produced to insure the most effective accomplishment of CIG's intelligence mission related to the national security. This office believes that such a set of fundamental needs should be carefully chosen so as to represent the composite requirements of the Federal Government and thus to constitute the broad outline of all National Intelligence Requirements.

4. While such an NIA Directive would be a production directive of a very generalized kind, it is anticipated that specific CIG projects to implement it would be programmed within ORE in the usual way, and further, that specific project requests or collection requests would be initiated by ORE in accordance with existing procedures as it believes remedial departmental action necessary to fill up gaps in the department intelligence coverage required for such CIG projects.

5. The above broad recommendations are believed to provide for the correction of the defects in the present system, as enumerated in paragraph 2 above. This office is preparing for your consideration a draft of a proposed NIA Directive embodying these recommendations.

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Reports and Estimates